When using pronouns, such as he and she, one does not realize that those terms being used could affect a person’s overall choice on what gender they identify with. These pronouns are two very common words to identity whether a person is a “boy” or a “girl.” Today many people have brought this issue into light and have questioned whether a person is guided toward one gender over another because of the environment they are brought up into. Gender identity and stories regarding parents raising their children genderless have the world discussing the facts and theories about whether we as humans have influenced children’s choice one gender over another at a young age. With these issues to be discussed is a person’s gender identity influenced by their environment and society that surrounds them each and every day?

Now let's take a deeper look into the two terms being discussed: gender and sex. When first hearing these two words typically they would be linked together and generally mean the same thing, right? No, actually these two terms, although similar, stand for two different meanings. Looking at the difference "Gender is cultural and is the term to use when referring to women and men as social groups. Sex is biological; use it when the biological distinction is predominant" (Mills, 2011). Meaning gender is used to identify a person, while sex is the biological features that the children is born with. Now having a deeper understanding behind these two words can you see how when some say they identify as a certain gender? See I was one to think that a person cannot identify as the other “gender” because it is biological yet uncovering the true meaning behind the words I have come to the realization that it’s not the sex that they are changing because physically they cannot it is how the identify themselves with and knowing this makes everything more clear.

When a woman discovers that she is pregnant one of the very first questions that she will receive from people is, is it a boy or girl. There off the bat the people surrounds the infant have already put it in a category without even realizing that they have done so. In some incidents the parents host a party that reveals the sex of the child and they make games out of it, other parents wait until the baby is born to find out the sex and then there are parents that cannot wait and find out as soon as possible. This little detail may not seem like it should affect a child’s identity choice yet if that child comes into a world and everyone around them calling that baby a certain pronoun that choice is in a way already made up for them. “At birth, many hospital nurseries provide pink caps for girls and blue caps for boys, or in other ways provide some visual sign of the sex that has been attributed to the baby. While this may seem quite natural to members of the society, in fact this color coding points out no difference that has any bearing on the medical treatment of the infants” (Eckert). Again from the very beginning that infant will be put into a category without having a chance to decide for itself, however whether that truly influences a child to identify with male or female still sits at the top of the issue.

Before and after the child is born family and friends want to know the gender because it helps people decide what types of clothes, toys, games, colors and more to buy for the child, especially during the infant year where the child has no say in what it really wants as a gift. Knowing the gender from the very beginning benefits those around the family and child with know what to expect when they are older. However, some question this and say that buying certain toys and clothes and colors influences that child to choose their gender based on what society wants or knows them to be, not who the truly are. “In the beginning, adults will do the child’s gender work, treating it is a boy or as a girl, and interpreting its every move as that of o boy or of a girl. Then over the years, the child will learn to take over it's part of the process, doing its own gender work and learning to support the gender work of others” (Eckert). This shows that in our society today gender is a key factor to a young child’s life. Being able to know what the gender/sex is makes the family and friends the ability to give them certain pronouns and names that they would normally not give to the opposite sex.

When talking to children there seems to be a way that adults treat and talk to the different the sexes differently. This theory has been tested multiple times in multiple ways. With one study, “scientists dressed newborns in gender-neutral clothes and misled adults about their sex. The adults described the "boys" (actually girls) as angry or distressed more often than did adults who thought they were observing girls, and described the "girls" (actually boys) as happy and socially engaged more than adults who knew the babies were boys” (Begley 2009). This study showed that adults look at gender when evaluating children and treat them differently because of their sex. Like Eckert said, “Gender is so deeply engrained in our social practice, in our understanding of ourselves and of others, that we almost cannot put one foot in front of the other without taking gender into consideration.” Gender is a key factor that people rely on to know what to say and do about a child, this key, may or may not be a huge factor towards the decision that the child makes about how they want to identity.

Gender Identity has made a big splash in social media today that there is a new way that some parents have decided to raise their children. This new experiment that some parents have decided to do is known as genderless. Genderless is a way that parents raise their children up in a gender-neutral fashion, not letting anyone know what the baby's sex is, keeping the child’s option open for them to choose whether to identify as male or female. With this type of parenting, families that participate receive a lot of backlash and hate for “abusing” their child. A family in Canada has decided to raise their child Storm using the genderless method. They gave the infant a gender-neutral name, gender-neutral clothes, and gender-neutral toys, ultimately letting the child decide whether what he/she wanted to be. This family however has been seen to many as abusive parents for hiding its “true” self away for the child.

While others perceive this method as a chance for the child to discover who he/she truly is and become the person they were meant to be. The parents of Storm decided that this method was what they wanted to do for their child and so as they announced to the world that they welcome a child, they also examples that they have “decided not to share Storm's sex for now -- a tribute to freedom and choice in place of limitation, a stand up to what the world could become in Storm's lifetime" (Donaldson 2011). After this announcement newspapers were receiving a lot of negative responses about the article written and “even Storm's grandparents, although supportive, said they resented explaining their gender-free baby to friends and co-workers” (Donaldson). There have been many different reactions toward Storm’s story and it has received much attention from many different opinions. Experts the study child development have applauded the “family's efforts to raise their child free of the constraints of gender stereotypes,” however, “they say the parents have embarked on a psychological experiment that could be "potentially disastrous” (Donaldson). Disastrous to the child, to the family, to the child’s friends, and anyone who is connected to Storm’s life. This experiment may create more damage than just letting Storm know what sex he/she is and then have he or she decide for himself or herself.

Storm’s family has an interesting plan to allow Storm to find who he/she truly is, however, does this genderless way of growing really necessary. Now today people have become more open-minded, less judgmental, and can really see the error that we have been living our lives. This leads to the fact of transgender. Transgender is a topic that in earlier years was not discussed and very much discouraged upon young and old individuals, yet today many have embraced the fact that people have decided to identify as the opposite sex. Transgender, “which is where one’s biological sex does not align with their gender identity,” is where individuals who undergo a gender transition: changing their name, dress and self-presentation (Zevallos 2014). Becoming transgender could be an option for Storm is he/she wants feels that is what they want to do. A person being transgender is not affected by how they are raised, most who identify as transgender knew they were yet they were still raised the sex that you were born and that does not mean that the child with ultimately want to live that particular life. Yes the child may feel guided toward one gender however in the long run that child, if truly feels that they are transgender, will end up choosing the life that they want to live. Although many who are transgender decide to undergo treatments, such as, hormone therapy to facilitate this process, but not all transgender individuals will make the choice to have surgery (Zevallos). Transgender people have said that they have known all along that they are transgender, therefore is the method of raising a child genderless necessary especially if that were to feel like they are not the gender that aligns with the sex they were born into they can make the choice for themselves later on.....